

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 7-10 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4 and 7-10 have been amended herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5, 7-11 and 18-20 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 12-14, 16 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 6-344624 (Kanemitsu). Claims 2, 4, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kanemitsu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,988,784 (Takemura et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an ink-jet recording apparatus. The apparatus includes a carriage, a guide rail, an adjusting lever, and a linear sensor. The carriage serially moves a recording head for ejecting ink drops. The guide rail guides serial movement of the carriage. The adjusting lever changes the width of a gap between the recording head and a platen, wherein the adjusting lever slides along the guide rail when the carriage is moving. The linear sensor detects a position of the carriage in a serial direction. The movable range of the carriage is changed by

operation of the adjusting lever and the state of the adjusting lever is judged from the movable range, which is detected by the linear sensor.

Kanemitsu relates to a recorder that can change and set a distance between the recording head and a recording medium. The recorder includes a linear scale to detect the travel position of the carriage 3. Shafts 10 and 11 and linear scale 9 are mounted to support 20 that rotates about a pivot to move the head mounted on the carriage toward and away from the recording sheet 13. In order to adjust the gap between the recording head and the recording sheet, a lever 23 is moved to one of plural positions and the shafts 10 and 11 and scale 9 are moved therewith.

However, Kanemitsu is not believed to disclose or suggest at least an adjusting lever for changing the width of a gap between the recording head and a platen, with the adjusting lever sliding along the guide rail when the carriage is moving, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Kanemitsu disclose or suggest that a movable range of the carriage is changed by the operation of the adjusting lever and the state of the adjusting lever is judged from the movable range, which is detected by a linear sensor, which is also recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Kanemitsu fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Takemura et al. is directed to ink jet recording by correcting drive timing. However, Takemura et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Kanemitsu noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

The remaining citations have also been reviewed, but are not believed to be any more relevant than those discussed above. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,419,409 (Ueda et al.) describes a serial printer including an operating lever 7 for changing a gap between a recording head and a recording medium. As understood by Applicant, a movable distance of the carriage is changed by changing the gap. However, lever 7 does not slide along a guide rail, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 4 and 7-10 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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